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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW UTAH COAL REPORT

The Utah Energy Office has released the 2002 report on coal production and distribution. Utah mines produced 25.3 million tons of coal last year, down 6.4 percent from near record production in 2001. Coal prices rose during 2002, but did not offset the loss of foreign export markets and a weak domestic economy. As a result, Utah coalmine revenue is down about \$12.6 million, or 2.6 percent from 2001. In addition, coalmine employment is declining as labor-saving technology allows mines to go deeper while improving safety.

Coal is vital to the national economy, meeting about half of the nation's electricity demand. In Utah, about 95 percent of electric power needs are met by coal. During 2002, more than 9 million tons of Utah coal were sent to other states for power production and industry.

The 2002 Utah Coal Report is part of a series of reports being prepared by the Utah Energy Office, within the Utah Department of Natural Resources. The Utah Energy Statistical Abstract will also be released in December.

For more information on the Utah Coal Report please contact Jon Allred at 538-4713, the Energy Hotline 1-800-662-3633, or jonallred@utah.gov. The report may also be viewed on the web at www.energy.utah.gov.

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